

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Deferiet Paper Mill RV2 - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject: POLREP #1
Stabilization of Abandoned Containers
Deferiet Paper Mill RV2
A26F
Deferiet, NY
Latitude: 44.0391100 Longitude: -75.6807500

To:
From: Joel Petty, On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 7/21/2017
Reporting Period: 07/11/2017 - 07/21/2017

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A26F	Contract Number:	EP-S2-15-01
D.O. Number:	TO39	Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	7/13/2017	Start Date:	7/11/2017
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	NYD002229269	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

An emergency Removal Action is warranted based on compromised containers, spilled material, unsecured access to the Site and analytical data indicating the presence of hazardous substances.

1.1.2 Site Description

The facility is located at 400 Anderson Avenue, Deferiet, New York and encompasses approximately 48 acres with a series of buildings that housed the former paper mill and a hydroelectric power-plant. The original mill manufactured paper of varying types, including newsprint and glossy magazine paper. The hydroelectric power-plant was built by the mill to generate steam which supplied electrical power for the machinery as well as the facilities. The paper mill has been abandoned since the mid-1980s, and with the exception of the power plant, is in a severe state of disrepair. In March 2016, EPA performed an emergency response at the site in order to stabilize asbestos-containing material (ACM) along an easement that is used by the employees at the power plant on the property. In June 2017, EPA conducted an assessment for additional ACM throughout the site buildings to determine eligibility for a removal action. During the assessment, abandoned drums and containers were discovered at two locations on the site.

1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located at 400 Anderson Avenue in Deferiet Village, New York 13628. The coordinates for the Site are latitude 44.03918056, longitude -75.68388889. Residential properties border the Site to the north, northwest, west, and southwest. Over 200 people live in the neighborhood bordering the Site. The Site is an abandoned paper mill and the buildings are in various states of deterioration.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

More than 100 containers including two 4,500-gallon tanks, 60 55-gallon drums, 16 300-gallon totes, and numerous smaller containers were found abandoned on the property. It was observed that several of these containers have holes, are bulging and leaking contents onto the ground. EPA sampled a variety of the containers located on-site and discovered that many contained hazardous substances. Hazard categorization indicated that incompatibles are collocated, which could mix if the contents leaked. The roof throughout the building is damaged leaving the containers exposed to the weather elements. The nearest residential properties are located directly across the street to the north and west. The facility is not secure. Fencing around the facility has been damaged in certain areas allowing trespassers access to the property. The buildings that the containers are in are not closed off and are easily accessed. Graffiti on the walls throughout the buildings indicate that trespassing has occurred.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") was conducting an assessment on asbestos throughout the Site buildings in June 2017 and discovered containers of unknown origin and content. From June 19 through 21, 2017, EPA conducted an assessment of the abandoned drums, totes, tanks, and other containers that were abandoned on the property. Approximately two tanks, 16 totes, 58 drums, as well as various containers 5-gallons or less in size, were found in various states of deterioration. None of the containers were in shippable condition and some were dented and/or bulging. Some of the containers were devoid of tops or were missing bungs leaving them exposed to the elements. One of the totes was on its side and its contents were leaking out onto the floor. Hazard categorization indicated that incompatibles are collocated, which could mix if the contents leaked. The roof throughout the building is damaged leaving the containers exposed to the weather elements. The nearest residential properties are located directly across the street to the north and west. The facility is not secure. Fencing around the facility has been damaged in certain areas allowing trespassers access to the property. The buildings that the containers

are in are not closed off and are easily accessed. Graffiti on the walls throughout the buildings indicate that trespassing has occurred. Hazard categorization of all accessible containers was conducted and select containers were sampled based upon the results of the hazard categorization. Analytical results of the samples indicated the drums and other containers contain CERCLA designated hazardous substances. Based on these results, the Site was determined to be eligible for an emergency Removal Action.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

On July 11, 2017, a request for approving the use of funds to commence mitigation activities was submitted. The Emergency and Remedial Response Division (ERRD) Acting Director verbally approved a \$282,000 ceiling, of which \$200,000 is for mitigation purposes. Following the monetary approval, an Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor was selected and notified. The ERRS Response Manager (RM) contacted the OSC and discussed mobilization to the Site along with needed personnel and resources. Assets were to be deployed the following day with arrival to the Site on July 13th.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

From June 19 through 21, 2017, EPA conducted an assessment of the abandoned drums, totes, tanks, and other containers that were abandoned on the property. The sampling results, along with field observations made by EPA concluded that conditions at the property meet the criteria for an emergency removal action under CERCLA.

On July 13, 2017, the EPA OSC and ERRS RM met on-site and began mobilizing crew and equipment.

On July 18, 2017, ERRS began securing the garage building where the majority of the containers are housed. All waste will be stored in the secured area of the building. The windows were boarded up and new locks were put on the doors to prevent any trespassing. The larger room in the warehouse was cleaned out to use for storage of equipment and empty drums/containers. ERRS also performed some clearing of plant overgrowth outside of the building to allow for easier access. RST began oversight, documentation, and air monitoring activities. Air monitoring is being performed with 5 gas multi-RAEs. The units are set to monitor for volatile organic compounds, hydrogen cyanide, hydrogen sulfide, oxygen, and lower explosive limit. 100 poly drums that were scheduled to be delivered to the site today did not arrive. At the end of the work day, ERRS secured the site for the night.

On July 19, 2017, ERRS completed securing the garage building. The 100 poly drums were delivered at 1000 hours. ERRS began using a double diaphragm pump to transfer liquids from totes to new poly drums. ERRS began pumping activities in modified Level C protection. The first tote pumped was 008. Due to the thick nature of the material in the tote, ERRS encountered difficulty in pumping. ERRS had to loosen up the thick material at the bottom of the tote in order to allow for the transfer. Upon completion of each tote, ERRS will perform a decon of the pump. At least a half of drum of rinse water will be generated per tote. To date one tote has been pumped. At the end of the work day, ERRS secured the site for the night.

On July 20, 2017, ERRS continued tote pumping activities. Air monitoring equipment began to indicate elevated levels of hydrogen cyanide and ERRS upgraded to Level B. It was determined that all pumping activities would be conducted in Level B because of the cyanide. ERRS encountered difficulties with the pump leaking and had to perform maintenance on the pump. By the end of the day ERRS had pumped totes 006 and 009. To date three totes have been pumped. At the end of the work day, ERRS secured the site for the night. The OSC began canvassing the adjacent neighborhood by handing out fact sheets and speaking with residents about the ongoing site work. The OSC met with the Mayor of Deferiet Village to discuss current activities as well as the timeline for the cleanup.

On July 21, 2017, ERRS continued tote pumping activities. Air monitoring equipment continued to indicated elevated levels of hydrogen cyanide. All pumping continued in Level B. By the end of the day ERRS had pumped totes 001, 003, 004, and 005. To date seven totes have been pumped. At the end of the work day, ERRS secured the site for the weekend. The OSC completed canvassing the adjacent neighborhood. The OSC was interviewed by a reporter at the Watertown Daily Times about the ongoing site work.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

EPA has identified Deferiet Development LLC as the owner of the facility. Contact with the owners occurred on January 27, 2017 and March 1, 2017. The two principals of Deferiet Development LLC claimed to no longer own the property, however a search of public records indicate they do. On May 11, 2017, Jefferson County received an Order granting an incident of temporary ownership for performance of an environmental restoration investigation. The County granted Site access to EPA on May 17th.

On January 10, 2017, the Preliminary PRP Search was completed.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

This information will become available during T&D operations.

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

The response will be conducted in two phases. The first phase will be securing the building where the

waste is being stored and the stabilization of the hazardous wastes. The second phase will be the transportation and disposal (T&D) of the waste.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Securing the building will consist of installing boards over all windows and locks on all entrance doors. Stabilization will consist of both pumping and overpacking. Liquids from the totes and tanks will be pumped into new poly drums for disposal. Solid materials will have to be manually transferred into drums. The materials from the abandoned drums will either be transferred to a new poly drum or overpacked in an 85-gallon steel drum depending on the materials. Materials will be bulked where appropriate, as determined by an ERRS chemist. The smaller containers will be placed into cubic yard boxes for disposal. All emptied totes and drums will be cut and/or crushed and disposed of. All wastes will be shipped off-site for disposal. Air monitoring will occur during all stabilization activities.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

ERRS will continue the transfer of materials from totes and drums to new 55-gallon poly drums. A chemist will mobilize to site to perform additional categorization activities for bulking and disposal. ERRS will begin pumping operations at the two 4,500-gallon tanks. These materials will be transferred to poly drums. Air monitoring will continue.

2.2.2 Issues

Hydrogen cyanide gas has been detected during pumping operations. ERRS is performing all pumping activities in Level B. RST provides continuous air monitoring during all activities.

2.3 Logistics Section

All logistics will be handled and monitored by the appropriate contractor or agency.

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

On July 11, 2017, the ERRD Acting Director approved a verbal authorization for the amount of \$282,000, of which \$200,000 is for the mitigation contractor.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

The EPA OSC is in charge of overall safety at the Site. The ERRS RM has been designated as the Site safety officer. A Health and Safety Plan was generated by ERRS.

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

The EPA OSC is performing the activities of a Liaison Officer. The OSC is coordinating operations between the ERRS contractor(s) and the local officials. Meetings with Village Officials and the public will be coordinated with the OSC.

2.5.3 Information Officer

Michael Basille is the designated Community Involvement Coordinator for the Site and can be reached at 716-551-4410.

EPA prepared a fact sheet and disseminated it to local officials and Deferiet Village residents.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

Unified Command has not been set up for this site.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

NYSDEC, Jefferson County, and Deferiet Village

4. Personnel On Site

EPA: 1

1 OSC

ERRS: 5

1 Response Manager

1 Field Cost Accountant

1 Equipment Operator

2 Field Technicians

RST: 1

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.